

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (twice amended). A composite material comprising:

a ceramic matrix predominantly including at least one substance selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicide, boron, aluminum, zirconium, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, boron nitride, boron carbide, SiBCN, TiC, iron silicides, and other silicides; and

fiber bundles having two different fractions including a reinforcing fiber bundle fraction and a matrix fiber bundle fraction having lengths with different averages, each of said fiber bundles having a weight, said weights being proportional to said fiber bundle lengths, said weights being plotted on a total fiber bundle distribution, and said fractions of fiber bundles being separated by a minimum in said total fiber bundle distribution.

Claim 3 (amended). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said fiber bundles contain fibers selected from the group consisting of carbon fibers, graphite fibers, SiC-fibers, aluminum oxide fibers, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{SiO}_2$ -fibers, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{SiO}_2\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ -fibers, carbonized cellulose fibers, carbonized wood fibers, other carbonized organic fibers and fibers resistant to elevated temperatures based on compounds containing Si, C, B, N, Al.